

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please substitute the following paragraph of the Specification for the corresponding original paragraph.

At page 9, lines 1-14:

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The exhaust tube **85** preferably comprises an enclosed conduit through which a continuous stream of effluent flows as the effluent is energized by the gas energizer to abate the hazardous gas content of the effluent. The exhaust conduit **85** has an inlet that forms a gas tight seal with an exhaust port of the process chamber **25**, and an outlet that forms a gas tight seal with a vacuum pump **100**. In one embodiment, the inlet and outlet are substantially facing each other in an opposing relationship, as shown in Figure 2. The exhaust tube **85** is composed of gas impermeable material that has sufficient strength to withstand operating vacuum type pressures of  $10^{-7}$  Torr. In addition, the exhaust tube **85** is made from material that is resistant to erosion from the energized effluent in the tube, and that withstands the high operating temperatures of conventional process chambers. The exhaust tube **85** should also have a transparent window that is transparent to the radiation coupled to the effluent, such as the microwave or RF radiation. The exhaust tube **85** can be composed of a ceramic material such as quartz (silicon dioxide) or polycrystalline aluminum oxide.

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